

We claim:

1. A wound dressing, comprising:

an absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces and at least one receptacle extending from the distal surface a distance into the thickness of the absorbent core, said at least one receptacle containing a discrete portion of at least one absorbent material;

a perforated skin adherent facing layer secured to the proximal surface of the absorbent core; and

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer connected to at least a portion of the distal surface of the absorbent core.

2. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the at least one receptacle extends into the absorbent core a preselected distance short of a thickness of the absorbent core.

3. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the at least one receptacle is formed by molding or casting.

4. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the at least one receptacle has a predetermined shape and size.

5. The wound dressing according to claim 4, wherein the at least one receptacle has a cross-sectional profile selected from the group of shapes consisting of grooves, channels, pyramidal, cylindrical, tapered cylinder, conical, rectangular, square and combinations thereof.

6. The wound dressing according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of receptacles defined in a pattern wherein the volume of each of the receptacles varies according to a position thereof relative to a central axis of the absorbent core.

7. The wound dressing according to claim 6, wherein the bulk volume of the discrete portions of absorbent material in each of said receptacles varies in relation to the volume of the respective receptacle.

8. The wound dressing according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of receptacles defined in a pattern wherein the density of the receptacles per unit area generally decreases from a central portion of the absorbent core towards the periphery thereof.

9. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the backing layer includes at least one compliant element disassociated from the absorbent core and extending outwardly from the distal surface of the absorbent core, said backing layer including a corresponding border portion secured to a border portion of the absorbent core and a corresponding central portion connected to the central portion of the absorbent core.

10. The wound dressing according to claim 9, wherein the at least one compliant element corresponds to an intermediate portion of the absorbent core interposed between the border and central portions thereof.

11. The wound dressing according to claim 9, wherein the connection between the central portions of the backing layer and the absorbent core is configured so as to permit detachment of the backing layer from the absorbent core and the formation of a reservoir therebetween upon absorption of moisture by the wound dressing.

12. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent core is selected from the group consisting of polymeric foam, woven material and non-woven material.

13. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the facing layer is an elastomeric gel bonded only to the proximal surface of the absorbent core.

14. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the facing layer is a discrete layer of silicone gel.

15. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the discrete absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of hydrocolloids, hydrogels and hydrophilic polymers.

16. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the backing layer is selected from the group consisting of latex rubber, silicone film, polyurethane film and polyethylene film.

17. A wound dressing comprising:

an absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces and an array of receptacles formed therein, the receptacles opening at the distal surface of the absorbent core and extending a distance into a thickness of the absorbent core, said receptacles containing a plurality of discrete portions of at least one absorbent material; and

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer connected to at least a portion of the distal surface of the absorbent core, said backing layer configured to be sufficiently distensible to permit expansion and migration of at least some of said discrete portions of absorbent material from said receptacles upon absorption of moisture or wound exudate by said wound dressing.

18. The wound dressing according to claim 17, wherein at least a portion of said backing layer detaches from said absorbent core when the discrete portions of absorbent material have absorbed wound exudate.

19. The wound dressing according to claim 17, wherein a skin adherent, perforated facing layer is secured to the proximal surface of the absorbent foam layer.

20. The wound dressing according to claim 19, wherein the facing layer is a discrete layer of silicone gel.

21. The wound dressing according to claim 17, wherein the receptacles are arranged in a predetermined pattern.

22. The wound dressing according to claim 17, comprising a plurality of receptacles defined in a pattern wherein the volume of each of the receptacles varies according to a position thereof relative to a central axis of the absorbent core.

23. The wound dressing according to claim 17, comprising a plurality of receptacles defined in a pattern wherein the density of the receptacles per unit area generally decrease from a central portion of the absorbent core towards the periphery thereof.

24. The wound dressing according to claim 17, wherein said absorbent core is selected from a group consisting of polymeric foam, woven material and non-woven material.

25. The wound dressing according to claim 17, wherein the absorbent material is selected from the group consisting of hydrocolloids, hydrogels and hydrophilic polymers.

26. The wound dressing according to claim 17, wherein the backing layer is selected from the group consisting of latex rubber, silicone film, polyurethane film and polyethylene film.

27. The wound dressing according to claim 17, wherein the backing layer seals peripheral edges of the absorbent core.

28. The wound dressing according to claim 17, wherein the receptacles are defined as channels generally extending transversely along at least a portion of the distal surface of the absorbent core.